

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

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Name of Organisation/Individual

Steinohrt Agriculture

What are the top policies from the Green Paper that the Government should focus on in the White Paper and why?

Policy idea 1—Building new transport infrastructure. Specifically including sealing a third east–west continental road through central Australia. This will not only benefit Agriculture, but the, Mining and Offshore Oil and Gas industry. It will also open up new opportunities for a more efficient land based logistics network.

Policy idea 11—Improving tax system efficiency and equity. Increasing thresholds and extending eligibility for the Farm Management Deposits Scheme (FMDs)—for example by increasing the deposit limit for FMDs to \$1 million—raising the off-farm

income threshold to around \$500,000 and extending access to FMDs to companies and trusts and re-establishing early

access provisions in times of drought. There are a lot of "Part Time" farmers that must work in the mines, offshore or elsewhere in order to continue their farming operations. These people work a lot harder than the general public and deserve to be rewarded for it.

What policies from the Green Paper don't you support and why?

General Comment

There should also be a policy in regards to young people who would like to purchase their own farm, but are limited by the banks current policies. For example, you can buy a \$1,000,000 house in the city with a 5% deposit. Why can't a young aspiring farmer purchase a farm with a house for \$1,000,000 with a 5% deposit?. Currently you cannot do this if the property is zoned rural. The banks required upwards of 40 to 60% deposit, which young people just don't have or could use this capital to improve the operation of their farms.